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Security Council

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# Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4417th meeting of the Security Council, held on 15 November 2001, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Burundi", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council expresses its deep gratitude to Madiba Nelson Mandela of South Africa for his dedicated service to the people of Burundi and the cause of peace in Central Africa. Building on the work of his predecessor, the late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, Madiba has helped to give Burundi a chance for lasting peace, democracy, economic development and national reconciliation.

"The Security Council had in the statement of its President on 8 November 2001 (S/PRST/2001/33), welcomed the 1 November 2001 inauguration of Burundi's Transitional Government and expressed its appreciation for the instrumental role played by Madiba towards the creation of the Transitional Government. The Security Council had also expressed the hope that the region and the international community could continue to rely on his moral leadership and ingenious spirit that are essential for progress towards peace in Burundi.

"The Security Council acknowledges the sterling contribution of Madiba as Facilitator of the Arusha Peace Process in bringing together all the Parties, including the armed groups to engage in dialogue in order to facilitate an early cessation of hostilities in accordance with the Arusha Agreement. The Security Council commends Madiba for his tenacity and unwavering commitment towards political reconciliation in Burundi.

"The Security Council expresses its appreciation to Madiba and the South African Government for initiating the deployment of the first elements of the multinational security presence tasked with the protection of returning political leaders, without which the conditions would not have been conducive for the inauguration of the Burundi Transitional Government. These key successes have confirmed the trust and confidence which the Security Council and the international community have always had in Madiba.

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"The Security Council expresses its concern about the recent increase in violence and reiterates its call for an immediate cessation of hostilities in Burundi. The Security Council calls on all Burundians to reject violence and to pursue their objectives through the institutions and mechanisms of the transition process. The Security Council appeals to all Burundians and United Nations Member States to build on the momentum created through the efforts of Madiba and to support the Regional Peace Initiative and the Transitional Government and the Implementation Monitoring Committee."